

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 KABUL 02538 041052Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
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R 040528Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7244
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMCONSUL PESHAWAR
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS KABUL 2538

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PK, AF
SUBJECT: KHAN ABDUL GHAFAR KHAN VISITS AFGHANISTAN

REF: A. ISLAMABAD 3236; B. KABUL 2283 (NOTAL)

1. ACCORDING TO AN APRIL 2 RADIO KABUL REPORT, KHAN ABDUL GHAFAR KHAN, PAKISTAN'S AGED, LEGENDARY PUSHTUN LEADER ("THE FRONTIER GANDHI"), ARRIVED THAT MORNING AT JALALABAD, IN THE HEART OF AFGHANISTAN'S PUSHTUN REGION, FOR "A SOJOURN IN THIS COUNTRY."

2. GHAFAR KHAN WAS WELCOMED BY ABDUL KHALEQ RAFIQI, GOVERNOR OF NANGARHAR PROVINCE (OF WHICH JALALABAD IS CAPITAL), THE ACTING MILITARY COMMANDER FOR THAT PROVINCE, AND "A GROUP OF THE PEOPLE, POETS, AND WRITERS."

3. COMMENT: GHAFAR, WHO IS HIGHLY VENERATED BY THE AFGHAN PUSHTUNS, HAS IN THE PAST SOUGHT MEDICAL ATTENTION AT JALALABAD. HOWEVER, THIS VISIT MIGHT BE RELATED
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TO PRESIDENT MOHAMMAD DAOUD'S RECENT PUBLIC RELATIONS TOUR THROUGH THE EASTERN PUSHTUN TRIBAL AREAS FOLLOWING HIS VISIT TO PAKISTAN (REFTEL B). WE BELIEVE THAT DAOUD UTILIZED THAT TRIP TO EXPLAIN TO TRIBAL LEADERS THE NEED FOR AFGHAN-PAKISTANI RAPPROCHEMENT AND HOW HE IS CONTINUING TO LOOK AFTER THE INTERESTS OF THEIR PUSHTUN BRETHREN ON

THE PAKISTANI SIDE OF THE DURAND LINE. GHAFAR
KHAN COULD BE CHECKING INTO THE RESULTS OF HIS
EFFORTS.
ELIOT

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NNN

Message Attributes

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